

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF COLOMBO PLAN  
STAFF COLLEGE GOVERNING BOARD

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 3243 (B) BANGKOK 15820  
(C) SINGAPORE 2825

1. FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD AUGUST 6 AND 12.  
WRAPUP MEETING WILL BE IN ABOUT 1 1/2 WEEKS TO APPROVE FINAL  
VERSION OF SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUDITOR'S REPORT OF STAFF  
COLLEGE'S OPERATIONS DURING FY 1974-75.

(B) CONSIDERATION OF THE COLLEGE'S BUDGET MUCH EARLIER  
IN THE YEAR, ESPECIALLY SINCE SEVERAL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ARE  
OPERATING ON BASIS OF DIFFERENT FISCAL YEAR. ALSO SUGGESTED  
WAS THAT ESTIMATES BE MADE FOR FOLLOWING YEAR, AS WELL, TO GIVE  
MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE COLLEGE'S NEEDS.  
THIS WOULD ONLY BE INSTITUTED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, WHEN THE  
COLLEGE HAS COMPLETED A FULL YEAR OF PROGRAMMING EXPERIENCE,  
BUT MIGHT EVOLVE INTO TWO YEAR BUDGET CYCLE.

(C) EACH MEMBER GOVERNMENT BE REQUESTED TO PAY IN AT  
LEAST ONE-THIRD OF ITS ESTIMATED CONTRIBUTION TOWARD  
OPERATING COSTS IN FY 75-76 PRIOR TO APPROVAL OF BUDGET  
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BY GOVERNING BOARD (SEE SC/75/19- BEING POUCHED). NEXT

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING WILL PROBABLY NOT BE HELD UNTIL EARLY OCTOBER. WE WILL HAVE MET THIS REQUEST PER REFTEL B.

(D) RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE OF REVISED FELLOWSHIP COST ESTIMATES FOR FY 1975- 76 WITH NOTATION THAT THE NUMBER OF FELLOWSHIPS COULD BE LOWERED FROM 24 TO 21 IF FUNDS NOT AVAILABLE. (SEE SC/75/10 REV. 1) UTILIZED FELLOWSHIP FUNDS FROM FY 1974-75, NOT REQUIRED TO BE RETURNED TO GOVERNMENTS, SHOULD BE PLACED IN RESERVE FUND TO TAKE CARE OF SHORTAGES IN FOLLOWING YEAR. SUBCOMMITTEE NOTED USG REQUIREMENT FOR RETURN OF FUNDS REFTEL B. COMMENT. THERE WAS MUCH DISCUSSION ON THE PROBLEM OF GOVERNMENT'S NOT PAYING THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS (E.G. INDOCHINA STATES AND IRAN) AND A REQUEST BY MALDIVES TO MAKE ONLY A SYMBOLIC CONTRIBUTION FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED USE IT CAN MAKE OF THE COLLEGE (SC/75/18- BEING POUCHED).

(E) RECOMMEND BUDGET ESTIMATES SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE MADE USING CONSERVATIVE EXCHANGE RATES AS CUSHION AGAINST FLUCTUATIONS. (MOST COLLEGE COSTS ARE IN SINGAPORE DOLLARS WHILE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE IN US DOLLARS AND OTHER CURRENCIES.)

(F) RECOMMEND THAT THE DIRECTOR'S SALARY BE PAID AT FIXED EXCHANGE RATE TO PROTECT IT AGAINST FLUCTUATIONS. RATE COULD BE FIXED AT DATE HIS CONTRACT WAS SIGNED OR POSSIBLY SOME AVERAGE RATE UTILIZED.

(G) WITH REGARD TO SALARY PROVISIONS, BUDGET ESTIMATE SHOULD BE REVISED DOWNWARD TO MAKE MORE REALISTIC PROVISIONS FOR EMPLOYEES NOT YET RECRUITED. THESE SALARY ESTIMATES WILL NOW REFLECT PLANNED DATE OF RECRUITMENT INSTEAD OF SALARY FOR THE WHOLE YEAR. SUBCOMMITTEE DID NOT REQUEST ELIMINATION OF ANY JOB POSITION (E.G. PROGRAM OFFICER OR ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN) SINCE POSITIONS ARE PART OF ALREADY-APPROVED PLAN OF OPERATIONS.

(H) BECAUSE OF SLOWNESS IN ACQUIRING FACULTY STAFF, COUNTRY COURSES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM FOUR COURSES OF TOTAL OF THREE (INCLUDING ONE ALREADY HELD IN BANGKOK). THREE OF SIX FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE NOT YET ARRIVED TO TAKE UP THEIR DUTIES.

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3. ESTIMATES OF FELLOWSHIP COSTS FOR 1975/76 SHOW A SLIGHT DEFICIT WHICH THE COLLEGE NOW EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO COVER SEE SC/75/10 REV. 1 ADD. 1-BEING POUCHED). USG CONTRIBUTION CAN PROBABLY REMAIN AT US \$12,880.

4. ESTIMATES FOR 1975-76 OPERATING COSTS SHOULD BE LOWER THAT PRESENTED AT FOURTH MEETING OF GOVERNING BOARD, RESULTING IN SLIGHTLY LOWER CONTRIBUTION FOR USG THAN

US \$10,661. EXACT FIGURES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL  
AFTER FINAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING.  
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